

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, but before line 1, please insert the following new paragraphs:

This application is a continuation in part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/755,882 filed on January 5, 2001.

This application asserts priority to Ireland Application No. S2000/0010 filed on January 7, 2000. The specification of Ireland Application No. S2000/0010 is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph on Page 4 beginning on Line 15 and ending on Line 17 with the following paragraph:

The insert is inflatable or deflatable by a pump or orally by a user blowing air into the insert through a valve and provides protection for articles stored in the luggage by absorbing any impact due to rough handling. In addition, the pressure in the insert can be increased above that provided by the memory foam by using either a pump or manually blowing into the insert to increase the amount of protection provided by the foam alone.

Please replace the paragraph on Page 8 beginning on Line 4 and ending on Line 14 with the following paragraph:

Referring to the drawings and initially Figures 1-6 there is shown an item of luggage indicated generally by the reference numeral 1. The item of luggage 1 has a storage compartment 4 having an outer member 7, a flexible inner liner 10 and an adjustable protection means. The adjustable protection means is provided by an inflatable insert 11

mounted between the outer member 7 and the flexible inner lining 10. The insert 11 is provided more specifically by a foam pad insert. The insert 11 has a control valve 9. The control valve 9 allows the user to inflate or deflate foam pad insert. A number of loops 3 are provided on opposite sides of the outer member 7 of the item of luggage 1 for attaching a shoulder strap 31. A pair of lifting handles 2 are also located on the outer skin 7 of the item of luggage 1. A flap 15 secured by fasteners 14 cover a zip fastener 6 and the control valve 9. A pump 30 can also be connected to the control valve 9 by a tube 32 to inflate the insert 11. In a preferred embodiment, the pump 30 is housed in a cavity 33 of the shoulder strap 31.

Please replace the paragraph on Page 8 beginning on Line 23 and ending on Line 25 with the following paragraph:

Referring now to Figures 4 to 6, there is shown a foam pad insert 11 in the deflated storage mode (see Figure 4), the inflated protection mode (see Figure 5) and the inflated protection mode having goods 16 stored therein (see Figure 6). After the luggage 1 is used the foam pad insert 11 can be deflated for storage. In order to deflate the foam pad insert 11, the user opens the control valve 9 so that the air pressure in the foam pad insert 11 can escape. The user then applies pressure to the foam pad insert 11 to compress the foam pad insert 11 and then closes the control valve 9 so that the foam pad insert 11 is kept in a compressed state for storage.

Please insert the following new paragraphs on Page 8 after Line 25:

In a preferred embodiment the inflatable insert is made of a foam pad insert 11. The

foam pad insert 11 can be made of a memory foam which expands to its original size when the control valve 9 is opened. The foam pad insert 11 is self-inflating when the memory foam is used. The foam pad insert 11 can be inflated by the user opening the control valve 9 to allow air to enter the insert 11. At this time, the foam will restore to its original size and provide shock protection to the goods contained in the luggage 1. The user can then close the control valve 9 so that the pressure in the foam pad insert 11 will stay constant and provide protection. However, if the user wishes to increase the amount of protection provided by the foam pad insert 11, the user can then open the control valve 9 and manually blow air into the foam pad insert 11. By increasing the pressure within the foam pad insert 11 a higher force is now needed to compress the foam pad insert 11 thereby increasing the amount of protection provided.

Referring to Figure 2, the item of luggage 1 also includes a pump 30 that can also be used to increase the pressure in the foam pad insert 11 if the user does not want to manually blow into the control valve 9. The shoulder strap 31 has a cavity 33 for housing the pump 30. The pump 30 can be a bellows type pump, electrical pump or other similar pump. The pump 30 is connected to a tube 32 which extends through the strap 31 and is selectively attached to the control valve 9. The tube 32 has a first end 34 attached to the pump and a second end 35 selectively attached to the control valve 9 so that the user can easily detach the tube 32 if they want to manually blow air into the foam pad insert 11 to increase the pressure. After the tube 32 is selectively attached to the control valve 9, the user only has to squeeze the portion of the strap 31 containing the pump 30 to increase the pressure in the foam pad insert 11. After the required pressure is obtained in the foam pad insert 11, the user then closes the control valve 9 so that the pressure in the foam pad insert 11 stays constant and protects the goods inside the luggage 1.